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the history of the family have since, for the most part, been discussing. Obviously, too, Mr. McLennan's question is the sociologically important one. Marriage is more than a fact of physiology and more than a relatively enduring cohabitation. It is a socially sanctioned relation. Admitting that every possible grouping of the sexes may have been tried by primitive men, what grouping was the first to be socially sanctioned? Students who may now re-read McLennan's books in the light of this thought will at least admit that he has made out a strong case for polyandry.

This thought runs through these posthumous papers. It was a strange series of fatalities which kept them from the public for so many years. Most of them are incomplete. They are written as fragments of a great work on early society, which should have systematically presented the final results of the author's studies. After his death his brother tried to piece them together. While engaged in this task Mr. Donald McLennan also died, and the material passed into the hands of Robertson Smith. Before he had done anything with it his final illness overtook him. Mr. J. F. McLennan's widow then assumed the work, and when the result of her labors was finally in the printer's hands she, too, passed away.

The volume is in two parts. The first is theoretical and expository and includes excellent chapters on the nature of historical evidence, on the definition of terms, and on "Kinship, Totemism and Marriage," "The Origin of Exogamy," "Female Infanticide," "Exogamy Inferred from the Law of Succession," and "Examples of Fabricated Genealogies." The second part is a mass of descriptive facts from many parts of the world, of different degrees of value, according to the authorities followed.

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The Life of Richard Cobden. By JOHN MORLEY. Two vols. Pp. 468, and 509. Price, \$3.00. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1896.

The semi-centennial of the inauguration of England's free trade policy could not have been better commemorated than by the republication of these two volumes of Mr. Morley, containing the record of the life and deeds of Richard Cobden. This biography is of great interest for many reasons. It has been written by a past master in the art. Mr. Morley has followed here a method somewhat different from that adopted in his "Lives" of Voltaire, Diderot and Rousseau. Cobden's life and theories are described for the most part in his own words, extracted from letters, journals, speeches, articles and books. From these Americans will learn that Richard Cobden was not such a monster as he is generally portrayed to our political audiences by ignorant

political speakers. They will be informed that he gave his life to the promotion of free trade with as true religious zeal and love for his fellowman as ever animated reformer. Every American who desires in any way to improve the common civic life can derive inspiration and instruction from these volumes. They show us how a man without any of the advantages of school or college training became one of the most distinguished political philosophers of his day, how he mastered the myriad details of one of the most complicated economic problems, and how he convinced a hostile ruling class and an adverse government after one of the most intense "campaigns of education" on record that unrestricted trade and commerce was the best for England as well as for all nations trading with her, for producers as well as for consumers, for the poor as well as for the rich.

The student of politics will find this "Life" especially rich in materials for the study of political agitations and in hints as to the way in which such agitations may be made to succeed. When Cobden first began to feel the stirrings of those feelings that forced him to become an agitator, the Protective system was rooted in the traditional prejudice and conservatism of Englishmen. Its position seemed impregnable. For years Cobden had been a commercial traveler of great activity and alertness in promoting the sales of his wares and stuffs; he was a large manufacturer of cloth goods; he was a most indefatigable observer and collector of facts of industrial life and conditions; and he was an omniverous reader of all kinds of literature that in any way helped him to understand the nature and needs of industry and trade. In addition he made extensive journeys in the United States, Egypt, Asia Minor and in nearly all the countries of continental Europe. In a word Cobden had what all reformers should have, a vast and various knowledge of industry and trade, a keen faculty for perceiving and assimilating essential as well as interesting facts and an exceptional ability for clear, forcible and persuasive presentation of the lessons of experience so as to interest and instruct all sorts of audiences. On all sides of him he saw the injurious consequences to trade and industry of the checks and hindrances to the free exchange of goods between nation and nation and his journeyings and reflections convinced him that the "vexatious eccentricity of incidence" of import duties was an unqualified and continuous injury to industry and to social and political life. He began the work of agitating for the abolition of the protective system single handed and alone: but soon others began to join him, among whom notably was John Bright. The personal work and influence of Cobden and Bright and their co-laborers were immense; but their efforts would scarcely have brought about such a radical change in England's industrial policy so

soon had it not been for the effective work of that noted political organization, "The Anti-Corn Law League." Perhaps never before was the efficiency of well-directed organized effort more clearly demonstrated in promoting a reform than was the case with the League's propagandism.

Richard Cobden's public work is a striking indication of the possibilities of rational reform under popular government. Into the cold facts and deductions of the "dismal science" he infused a warmth and light and earnest patriotic zeal that made them living things to the people of England. His success proves that the most complicated subjects in economics and finance can be so presented to the masses, that the most profound truths can be assimilated by them and utilized in the betterment of human relations through conscious social and political reform. The United States has just witnessed a remarkable campaign of education and the hopes of the believers in the stability of democratic government have been greatly strengthened. Cobden's career demonstrates that the chief requisites to realizing a needed reform are full knowledge of the subject in all its relations, lucid and persuasive speech and enduring earnestness and honesty in its promotion.

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Der Staat und sein Boden. By FRIEDRICH RATZEL. Publications of the Royal Scientific Society of Saxony. Vol. xvii, No. iv. Pp. 127. Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1896.

Professor Ratzel's book is worthy an extended notice, not only for what it contains, but also for what it promises. In the four papers which it includes we have a valuable contribution to that neglected field of social phenomena which concerns the influence of man's environment upon the political institutions which he has developed, and suggestions which may in time lead to the birth of a new science. The author arraigns the conventional political science, because it proceeds to "dissect the state as something dead, represents it as a skeleton, treats its phenomena of growth and decline—practically so important—as if here a piece of land were cut off from a private estate and there one were added," and maintains that, "deeper insight into the subject is possible only through the study of the living political organism. We can describe and measure a political boundary ever so exactly, but its real importance for the state and the importance of every one of its features will be comprehended only when it has been conceived as the peripheral organ of a political organism. Area may be determined ever so accurately, but its value to the state can be